application comes up for examination before the Supplemental Preliminary

Amendment has been matched with the file, the Examiner is requested to contact the

Applicants undersigned representative.

The Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 37, 38, and 55-68, is in condition for allowance. Allowance of each of these claims are respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

DARWIN J. PROCKOP ET AL.

20 December 2000

(Date)

Gary D. Colby, Ph.D., J.D.

Registration No. 40,961

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street - Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone No.:

215-965-1200

Direct Telephone:

215-965-1285

Facsimile:

215-965-1210

E-Mail:

GColby@akingump.com

Enclosure: Copy of Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time